

of the AEC's division of engineering, stated, adding that it would be difficult to accomplish this but not impossible.

The AEC report consisted largely of

details on measures and devices for protection against radiation injury as practiced in atomic energy plants.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1950

They determine engine wear by measuring the amount of radioactive iron particles in the oil after a test has been run. These iron particles have been worn from the operating engine.

In making tests, the engine need be run for only about three hours. When the test run is completed, a metal cylinder containing a Geiger counter is dipped in the oil sample. This instrument immediately records the amount of radioactive particles in the oil.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1950

GENERAL SCIENCE

No Brains List Now

► OUR government has only an incomplete idea of the reserves of scientific brains at its disposal in this emergency. This is because "economy" in 1946 forced the abandonment of a national science roster which, during World War II, provided up-to-date information on all Americans with scientific and technical backgrounds.

Only recently has there been an attempt to recreate the list. Because of the new scientists who have graduated and received advanced degrees and because of the moving around of many other scientists, the old list is practically useless.

Right now the work has been farmed out by the National Securities Resources Board to the Office of Education in the Federal Security Agency. The National Academy of Sciences is cooperating in this effort. The job of keeping it up will belong to the new National Science Foundation when it is set up.

The National Research Council has a good list of most of the natural scientists with Ph.D.'s—physicists, chemists, etc. A comparable roster of engineers is being developed and work is just beginning on a roster of the social scientists.

A complete roster will be vitally necessary in a general mobilization. The armed forces, other defense agencies and laboratories working on new weapons must be able to know where to get the scientists they will need and how many with a particular talent are available.

Because we probably will have to use our present supply of scientists carefully, a system of allocating them on the list may soon be set up. There have been rumors that the National Science Foundation, designed as a peacetime agency, will be given this task.

Scientists hope that a reasonable method of allocation of their talents will be worked out. During World War II, some of the scientific societies worked hard to see that men were placed where they would do the most good. Most of this work was concerned with getting around Selective Service System and military establishment blunders in individual cases.

A complete roster of scientific talent, in the opinion of most scientists, is the basis of setting up a system which will make impossible the mistakes of World War II.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1950

PHYSICS

Radioactive Materials Help Find Best Oils

► RADIOACTIVE material from the atomic pile at Oak Ridge, Tenn., is playing an important part in Philadelphia in determining the effects of different oils on the wear of automobile engines. The process employed was described by scientists of the Atlantic Refining Company.

These scientists are working with engine parts made radioactive in the atomic pile.

Question Box

ARCHAEOLOGY

What ancient "Whodunnit" is Agatha Christie now tackling? p. 94.

ENTOMOLOGY

What animal is a fiddler? p. 94.

GEOLOGY

What is valuable about the earth in parks and playgrounds in the nation's capital? p. 91.

Photographs: Cover, Ford News Bureau; p. 83, Hill and Knowlton; p. 87, Shell Oil Company; p. 96, Tennessee Eastman Corporation.

INVENTION

How can a French opera be heard in English? p. 89.

Why does the cow's tail no longer switch during milking? p. 94.

MEDICINE

What is the medicine given with milk for best results? p. 91.

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